



Downtown Fayetteville, 1814. (Sketched by M. Horace Say)

the acquisition by the Federal government of the Camp Bragg Military Reservation (later called Fort Bragg), with nearby Fayetteville as the sole outlet for goods and services, firmly re-established the city as a commercial center. The Fort Bragg retail market continues to be one of the major factors in the economy of Fayetteville today.

The early community was more than just a commercial center; it was the locus of considerable political activity and influence as well. The roving General Assembly of North Carolina convened in Fayetteville in 1789, 1790 and 1793. It was here, in the old "State House" on the site of the present Market House, that the Assembly ratified the Constitution of the United States and granted the charter establishing the University of North Carolina. Fayetteville was one of the strong contenders in the competition between North Carolina cities to be selected as the permanent state capital; at one point, so the story goes, a single additional vote in the Assembly would have located the capital here. Historically then, the exchange of ideas as well as the exchange of goods has been a major element in the life of the community.

An Early Plan

In 1784, the year after the Act "Altering the Name of Cambleton ^{sic} to Fayetteville," the General Assembly passed an "Act¹ to Establish the Principal Streets of Fayetteville as Laid Down in a Plan. . . ." The plan adopted by this

¹ State and Colonial Records of North Carolina, XXV, p. 695.